



# Maryland Department of Agriculture

Agriculture | Maryland's Leading Industry

*Office of the Secretary*

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## **Snow Storm Recovery and Re-building Resources for Maryland Producers and Agricultural Property Owners**

The Maryland Department of Agriculture has compiled this list of resources for agricultural producers who have experienced losses related to the snow storms of December 2009 and February 2010. There are resources available from state and federal agencies. Additional resources may become available if certain disaster declarations are issued. MDA will add those resources if they become available. This information is also available on our website at [www.mda.state.md.us](http://www.mda.state.md.us) see Hot Topics on the right.

### **CLEANUP AND RECOVERY RESOURCES**

For assistance from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), it is recommended that producers contact their county FSA office as soon as possible, even if it seems like assistance may not be available for the specific loss. The FSA can explain eligibility requirements for all of its programs. If certain disaster designations are made in the future, additional resources may become available.

- **Livestock Indemnity Program - USDA Farm Service Agency**

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)- LIP is a program which provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather conditions. For those eligible, USDA will pay 75% of the fair market value of those animals lost. LIP does not require an official disaster declaration but Producers must file a notice of loss within **30** days of the loss being apparent and must also provide proof of death as well as supporting documentation as to the kind, type, weight, and number of the livestock.

**Deadline:** 30 days

**Link:** [www.fsa.usda.gov/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/) click on Disaster Assistance Programs

**Contact:** County Farm Service Agency office

<http://offices.sc.gov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=md&agency=fsa>

- **Emergency Loan Programs - USDA Farm Service Agency**

In the event a disaster designation is made, FSA will offer emergency loans to help producers recover from losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine. Emergency loans may be made to eligible farmers who own or operate land located in a county declared by the President as a disaster area, designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as a disaster area or quarantine area, and for physical losses only the FSA Administrator may authorize emergency loan assistance. Eligibility requirements include being established family farm operators and with sufficient farming or ranching experience, are citizens or permanent residents of the United States, have suffered at least a 30-percent loss in crop production or a physical loss to livestock, livestock products, real estate, or chattel property; have an acceptable credit history, are unable to receive credit from commercial sources, can provide collateral to secure the loan, and have repayment ability. Emergency loan funds may be used to restore or replace essential property, pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year, pay

essential family living expenses, reorganize the farming operation, and refinance certain debts. Applications for emergency loans must be received within 8 months of the county's disaster or quarantine designation date. Further information on the emergency loan program is available at your local FSA Service Centers.

**Link:** [www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA\\_File/loanschart10.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/loanschart10.pdf) for a summary of programs. Call your county FSA office for details and eligibility. If a disaster is designated rates may be very low and attractive.

**Contact:** County Farm Service Agency office

<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=md&agency=fsa>

- **Supplemental Revenue Assistance Program - SURE - USDA Farm Service Agency**

SURE is a program that provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disaster. SURE applies to crop loss only, which includes nursery stock. To be eligible for SURE assistance Producers must be located in a county covered by a natural disaster Secretarial designation or contiguous to a county that was declared a disaster. Producers may also qualify regardless of declaration if they experienced greater than 50% loss on their operation. Also to be eligible for SURE, Producers must have crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) coverage on all crops of economic significance. Payments for those who qualify will be made at 60% of the difference between what is determined to be the Program Guarantee and the Actual Farm Revenue.

**Link:** [disaster.fsa.usda.gov/](http://disaster.fsa.usda.gov/)

**Contact:** County Farm Service Agency office

<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=md&agency=fsa>

- **Permission to Burn Debris - Maryland Department of the Environment Guidance**

Maryland Department of the Environment is allowing emergency burning of debris related to poultry house, livestock stabling facilities and manure storage structures. The Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) regulatory guidance specifies that building materials are demolition debris and must be transported to a permitted disposal facility for disposal once the weather clears. However, due to the extreme nature of the recent snow storms, MDE has determined that the County Government or Health Department for the County in which the structure is located may issue a permit for in place burning of poultry and other livestock shelters and manure storage structures that suffered structural collapse during the heavy snowstorms of February 2010, subject to the numerous conditions. Please see the link below for MDE guidance.

**Deadline: March 21, 2009**

**Link:** [www.mde.state.md.us/assets/document/MDE\\_LMA\\_Animal\\_Supplemental\\_Guidance.pdf](http://www.mde.state.md.us/assets/document/MDE_LMA_Animal_Supplemental_Guidance.pdf)

**Contact:** County government or county health department for permit. Maryland Department of the Environment, Solid Waste Program, 410-537-3315 • 800-633-6101 x3315

- **Disposal of Carcasses and Animal Mortality - Maryland Department of Agriculture Advice**

Contact your insurance agent AND USDA Farm Service Agency county office as soon as possible. FSA must be contacted within 30 days of the event or loss to apply for assistance programs. FSA has a Livestock Indemnity Program and Loan Programs which may apply. Insurance and indemnity programs may require documentation of loss prior to clean up.

For veterinary assistance, call your private veterinarian. Private veterinarians will contact MDA if additional assistance is necessary.

For on-farm burial and for landfiling, a county health department permit may be required. Maryland Department of the Environment permits issued to landfills allow for the disposal of animal carcasses. Local government rules may be stricter and may not allow disposal of carcasses at landfills.

#### ***For Poultry:***

Contract growers should contact their companies before taking action. MDA advises a tiered approach depending upon what facilities are available. First recommendation is to compost dead birds in the manure storage facility. Second is to compost outside with appropriate setbacks from surface water. University of Maryland Extension Fact Sheets provide instruction on this process. If these procedures are not an option, land filling and commercial composting can be considered with appropriate permitting and/or direction from local officials.

#### **UMD Extension Fact sheets:**

Composting for Catastrophic Event Poultry Mortality,  
[www.mda.state.md.us/pdf/compostpoultrycatastrophe-umd.pdf](http://www.mda.state.md.us/pdf/compostpoultrycatastrophe-umd.pdf)  
Guidelines for In-House Composting of Catastrophic Poultry Mortality.,  
[www.mda.state.md.us/pdf/compostpoultrycatastropheinhouse-umd.pdf](http://www.mda.state.md.us/pdf/compostpoultrycatastropheinhouse-umd.pdf)

#### ***For Livestock:***

Depending upon facilities, off-farm disposal by rendering or commercial land filling may be needed when and where on-farm livestock disposal by burial or burning is not practicable or not permitted by local Health Officer.

**Burial on farm.** There are some areas of Maryland where burial will not be a legal option for disposal of large animal carcasses.

**Composting on farm.** There is a large amount of information available on this carcass disposal method. There may be regions of Maryland which prohibit composting of livestock, please check with your county authorities. During clean up and recovery, contact the University of Maryland Extension county office for composting guidance. Your county agent can direct you to the best subject matter expert.

#### **Online information:**

University of Maryland "[Guidelines for Composting Large Animal Mortalities in Maryland](#)"  
Cornell University composting information: <http://cwmi.css.cornell.edu/factsheets.htm>  
University of Maryland multiple subject composting information:  
[www.compost.umd.edu/Resources.cfm](http://www.compost.umd.edu/Resources.cfm)

#### **Contacts:**

County Health Departments for certain permits: <http://cha.maryland.gov/html/local2.cfm>  
University of Maryland Extension for technical expertise: <http://extension.umd.edu/local/index.cfm>  
USDA FSA for Livestock Indemnity Program, etc:  
<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=md&agency=fsa>

### **RESOURCES FOR REBUILDING**

There are a number of state and federal programs as well as commercial loans that may help rebuild in kind. Numerous programs can help to rebuild in a more energy efficient way and/or with alternative energy technology.

- **USDA Rural Development - Rural Energy for America Program**

The Program is offered through USDA Rural Development and can pay up to 25% of the costs for an agricultural producer or small business to implement a renewable energy project or make energy

efficiency improvements in rural areas to their farm operation or business. The minimum energy efficiency grant is \$1,500 and the maximum is \$250,000. An example of an energy efficiency improvement could be to simply replace lights and cooling fans in a poultry house with more energy efficient lighting and ventilation. For a small business such as a restaurant, it could be updating cooking and refrigeration equipment with energy saving appliances.

Those interested in renewable energy improvements such as solar, wind or biomass systems, the minimum renewable energy grant starts at \$2,500 and can go up to \$500,000. To help with the total costs of the project, loan guarantees in coordination with the grant are available for 75% of the project. **Contact:** Mr. Bruce Weaver, USDA Rural Development Business and Community Program Specialist. Phone: (302) 857-3625 or at [bruce.weaver@de.usda.gov](mailto:bruce.weaver@de.usda.gov)

- **MARBIDCO – Ag and Rural Business Low Interest Rate Loans for Marylanders**

The mission of the Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation is to help the State's farm, forest, and seafood businesses achieve sustainable viability and profitability. MARBIDCO may be able to assist farmers wishing to rebuild poultry houses and livestock barns that were destroyed by the February snow storms. Unsecured loans of up to \$15,000 are available at an interest rate of 4% APR if a difference in farm operation energy savings can be calculated from the energy consuming aspects of the old facility versus what is planned for the reconstructed chicken house or barn. Cash incentives, energy audits and technical assistance may also be available directly from EnSave, Maryland's farm energy efficiency service provider (see separate program description below). MARBIDCO also offers other farm loans (fully collateralized) to borrowers that can meet certain cash flow requirements. Rural Business Energy Efficiency Improvement Loans - up to \$15,000 in unsecured loans at 4% APR.

**Deadline:** Program is open until all funds are depleted.

**Link:** [www.marbidco.org](http://www.marbidco.org)

**Contact:** Kristen Robinson, 410-267-6807 or [krobinson@marbidco.org](mailto:krobinson@marbidco.org)

- **Maryland Energy Administration**

#### **MD Residential Solar Grant Program**

*Solar Photovoltaic:*

- \$1.25/ watt for the first 2,000 watts of capacity
- \$0.75/ watt for watts 2,001 - 8,000
- \$0.25/ watt for watts 8,001 - 20,000

System must be under 20kW to be eligible; maximum grant amount is \$10,000.

*Solar Hot Water:*

- 30% of the installed cost up to \$2,000 maximum grant

<http://energy.maryland.gov/incentives/residential/solargrants/index.asp>

#### **MD Mid-Size Solar Grant**

*Solar Photovoltaic:*

- \$500/ kW for the first 20 kilowatts (of DC capacity)
- \$250/ kW for kilowatts 21 – 50
- \$150/ kW for kilowatts 51 – 100

System must be between 20 and 100 kilowatts to be eligible; maximum grant amount is \$25,000.

*Solar Hot Water:*

- 15% of the installed cost up to \$25,000 maximum grant.

Systems must be larger than 100 sq ft to be eligible

<http://energy.maryland.gov/incentives/business/MidSizedSolarGrants.asp>

### **MD Solar PV Renewable Energy Credits**

PV systems registered with the Maryland Public Service Commission are eligible to generate solar renewable energy credits (SRECs) for each 1000 kWh that they generate. These credits can be sold. The price of SRECs is set by the alternative compliance payment (ACP) which is currently at \$.40 per kWh and is scheduled to drop by \$.05 per kWh in 2011 and biannually by that increment thereafter until it reaches \$.05 per kWh in 2023. SRECs will likely trade at some discount to the ACP.

[http://webapp.psc.state.md.us/intranet/ElectricInfo/home\\_new.cfm](http://webapp.psc.state.md.us/intranet/ElectricInfo/home_new.cfm)

### **MD Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit**

\$0.0085 per kWh generated in first 5 years as a tax credit to Maryland income tax.

[http://energy.maryland.gov/incentives/allprograms/cep\\_taxcredit.asp](http://energy.maryland.gov/incentives/allprograms/cep_taxcredit.asp)

### **Federal 30% investment tax credit**

**\*\*This can be converted to a 30% grant.**

Grant Application - [www.treas.gov/recovery/1603.shtml](http://www.treas.gov/recovery/1603.shtml)

Program Guidance for grant in lieu of tax credit- [www.treas.gov/recovery/docs/guidance.pdf](http://www.treas.gov/recovery/docs/guidance.pdf)

U.S. Department of Treasury - Renewable Energy Grants

[www.dsireusa.org/solar/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive\\_Code=US53F&re=1&ee=1](http://www.dsireusa.org/solar/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=US53F&re=1&ee=1)

Business Energy Investment Tax Credit (ITC)

[www.dsireusa.org/solar/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive\\_Code=US02F&re=1&ee=1](http://www.dsireusa.org/solar/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=US02F&re=1&ee=1)

### **Federal Depreciation Benefits**

[http://www.dsireusa.org/solar/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive\\_Code=US06F&re=1&ee=1](http://www.dsireusa.org/solar/incentives/incentive.cfm?Incentive_Code=US06F&re=1&ee=1)

**Contact:** Mike Hartley, Clean Energy Program Manager

Maryland Energy Administration

1623 Forest Drive, Suite 300

Annapolis, MD 21403

Direct: 410-260-7543

[mhartley@energy.state.md.us](mailto:mhartley@energy.state.md.us)

- **EnSave – Maryland Farm Energy Audit Program**

A new program is now available for all agricultural producers in Maryland! The Maryland Statewide Farm Energy Audit Program is a new program based on a successful program run originally for Maryland's eastern shore and western counties. This program helps farmers reduce their energy costs through farm energy audits and incentives for qualifying energy saving projects.

**Deadline:** Ongoing enrollment

**Link:** [www.ensave.com/maryland-statewide-farm-energy-audit-program.html](http://www.ensave.com/maryland-statewide-farm-energy-audit-program.html)

**Contact:** Corey Conant, EnSave Program Manager, (800) 732-1399 or [coreyc@ensave.com](mailto:coreyc@ensave.com).

**Note:** New information for poultry growers and others in storm recovery

[www.mda.state.md.us/pdf/ensavemdrebuild.pdf](http://www.mda.state.md.us/pdf/ensavemdrebuild.pdf)

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